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Barbecue Safety

Beware when you barbecue. In 1999 alone, gas and charcoal grills caused 1,500 structure fires and 4,200 outdoor fires in or on home property. When using barbecue grills on decks or patios, be sure to leave sufficient space from siding and eaves. Below are some tips from the National Fire Protection Association:

- Always supervise a barbecue grill when in use.
- Keep children and pets far away from grills.
- With charcoal grills, only use charcoal starter fluids designed for barbecue grills and do not add fluid after coals have been lit.
- With gas grills, be sure that the hose connection is tight and check hoses carefully for leaks.
- Applying soapy water to the hoses will easily and safely reveal any leaks.
- All propane cylinders manufactured after April 2002 must have overfill protection devices (OPD). OPDs shut off the flow of propane before capacity is reached. OPDs are easily identified by their triangle-shaped hand wheel.
- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions and have the grill repaired by a professional, if necessary.
- Remember to keep your grill clean!
- Wear short, close fitting or tightly rolled sleeves when cooking. Loose clothing can dangle onto grill and catch fire.

“Together We Can Save Lives And Prevent Injuries”